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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CIA/WHSS

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/OCI/WHIZ 741204

No Item Number

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO-

STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

POSSIBLE PRIME MINISTER POST

25X1A9a

CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

TTEM-NO: 1

DATE: 4 DECEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: 25X1X6

REF

PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA DE PERON IS

25X1A2g

OVERWORKED AND ARGENTINE LEADERS ARE WEIGHING THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING THE POST OF PRIME MINISTER TO RELIEVE HER OF ALL BUT CEREMONIAL DUTIES. NAVY COMMANDER ADMIRAL EMILIO MASSERA.

ERRENDERE WHO REPORTEDLY HAS BECOME A CONFIDANT OF THE PRESIDENT.

IS RUMORED TO BE THE MOST LIKLY CANDIDATE FOR THE POST. MASSERA

HAS NO CLOSE POLITICAL TIES AND WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO POLITICALENS

AND TO THE ARMED FORCES.

THERE HAVE BEEN PREVIOUS RUMORS THAT A PRIME MINISTER OR .
COUNCIL OF STATE WOULD BE INSTALLED TO HELP MRS. PERON. SUCH

DATE:

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PLANS HAVE NOT COME TO FRUITION, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE OBJECTIONS

OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER LOPEZ REGA, WHO WOULD VIEW SUCH A PRO
SPECT AS A THREAT TO HIS POSITION. LOPEZ REGA EXERCISES STRONG

INFLUENCE OVER THE PRESIDENT AND CONTROLS THE ACCESS OF MINISTERS

AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO WISH TO SEE HER.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME RECENT REPORTS SUGGEST THAT MRS.

PERON AND LOPEZ REGA ARE NOT ON GOOD TERMS. THUS, SHE MIGHT

IGNORE LOPEZ REGA AND OPT FOR RELIEF BY ACCEPTING SOMEONE WHO

COULD SERVE AS A SCAPEGOAT IF POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE. E-2 IMPDET.H

4SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: WH DIV AND NIO

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